

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01
L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 IGA-02 AGRE-00 /079 W
-----127844 201234Z /50

P R 201120Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3602

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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STATE FOR NEA/PAB; AID FOR NE BUREAU

E. O. 11652 NA

TAGS: EAID, AF, PK

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) REQUEST FOR PL-480
ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) STATE 168372 (B) KABUL 4668

1. IN MEETING TODAY WITH AFGHAN MINISTER OF PLANNING KHURRAM, AMBASSADOR PASSED ON INFO CONTAINED REFTEL A STRESSING NEED FOR PROMPT GOA RESPONSE IF CONSIDERATION IS TO BE GIVEN TO SHIPMENTS DURING FY 1977. KHURRAM'S OWN RESPONSE WAS FAVORABLE AND HE UNDERTOOK TO TAKE UP MATTER IMMEDIATELY WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD AND GIVE US OFFICIAL GOA RESPONSE BY TOMORROW, JULY 21.

2. AS WE EXPECTED (SEE REFTEL B), KHURRAM APPEARED GENUINELY SURPRISED OVER OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO FUND TRANS-PAKISTAN IN-LAND FREIGHT COSTS BY MEANS OF A GRANT OF PAK RUPEES AND REQUESTED THAT USG RECONSIDER MATTER WITH A VIEW TO REVERSING OUR POSITION.

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3. THE MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WE RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THIS REQUEST, PROVIDED, OF COURSE, A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED TO SUPPLY THE REQUESTED WHEAT. THIS WILL CONTINUE THE TEN-YEAR PRECEDENT, UPON WHICH THE GOA HAS COME STRONGLY TO RELY, OF RESPONSIVENESS ON OUR PART TO THE ONEROUS COSTS OF TRANSPORT WITH WHICH LANDLOCKED AFGHANISTAN MUST CONTEND.

4. OVER AND ABOVE PRECEDENT -- AND AS STATED IN REFTEL B --
OUR PRIMARY RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE AFGHAN
REQUEST IS AFGHANISTAN'S STATUS AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEAST
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR WHICH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS
PLEDGED MORE, NOT LESS, ASSISTANCE.

5. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT A LEGAL REQUIREMENT, THERE IS A WELL-
ESTABLISHED PRACTICE FOR THE U.S. MISSION, ISLAMABAD, TO OBTAIN
ROUTINE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN (GOP) CONCURRENCE FOR GRANTS
OF PAK RUPEES TO AFGHANISTAN, AND WE ASSUME THAT SUCH CON-
CURRENCE WOULD BE SOUGHT IN THIS INSTANCE AS WELL. GIVEN THE
FACT THAT THE ZIAUL HAQ INTERIM GOVERNMENT HAS UNDERLINED ITS
DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE "SPIRIT OF KABUL," I.E., THE RAPPROA-
CHMENT WHICH THE GOA AND GOP HAVE BUILT OVER THE PAST YEAR,
WE DO NOT FEEL THAT THE GOP WOULD BE AVERSE TO A FURTHER
GRANT FOR PL-480 SHIPMENTS. ON THE CONTRARY, THE GOP MIGHT
SEE -- OR BE LED TO SEE -- THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGE ACCRUING
TO IT IN ITS RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN IN BEING FORTHCOMING.
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